



MEDIA CONTACT:

Dan Attenberger

AGP & Associates, Inc.

Phone: 989-839-5800

att@agp-inc.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Registration closes Oct. 29 for ninth annual A.H. Nickless Innovation Award competition

Up to \$77,500 in prizes to be awarded to top three local teams and their schools

UNIVERSITY CENTER, MICH., Oct. 13, 2021 – Registration for the ninth annual A.H. Nickless Innovation Award – a competition that awarded nearly \$520,000 in scholarships and grants to local students and schools in its first eight years – will close at month’s end.

Aimed at inspiring passion for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects and challenging students to work in teams to think innovatively and develop solutions to problems impacting the world, the award is an annual competition for high school students ages 13 to 18 in Bay, Midland, Saginaw and Tuscola counties. Topics typically include – but are not limited to – issues related to alternative energy, healthcare, science, technology or life sciences.

Registration for Phase One of the competition ends at 4 p.m. Oct. 29. Prospective participants can find more information about the competition, read the rules and regulations, and register online at ahninnovationaward.com.

During Phase One, each team is required to identify a problem and submit a two-page description of its proposed project. In late November, a panel of regional experts will choose 20 projects to continue in the competition; each of those teams will be granted \$1,000 with which to conduct its research and develop a viable solution during Phase Two, which lasts until the March 31, 2022, project submission deadline. On Saturday, April 23, 2022, teams will present their projects during a daylong public event at Saginaw Valley State University.

Members of the three winning teams will receive scholarships, and each of those teams’ schools will win a STEM education grant. Available prizes total \$77,500 annually and are awarded as follows:

- **First place** receives up to five **\$5,000 scholarships** for student team members and a **\$20,000 STEM education grant** for the school
- **Second place** receives up to five **\$2,500 scholarships** for student team members and a **\$10,000 STEM education grant** for the school



- **Third place** receives up to five **\$1,000 scholarships** for student team members and a **\$5,000 STEM education grant** for the school

While the competition was put on hold for 2020-21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Nickless Family Charitable Foundation **distributed \$16,500 in scholarships to past competitors** who were unable to compete during their senior year due to the cancellation. A \$1,500 scholarship was awarded to each of the 11 class of 2021 seniors who had competed in 2019-20 as juniors but were not on one of the top 3 teams. The foundation also donated **some of the dollars that would have been used to fund the 2020-21 competition to support a program at the Bay City Unit of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region** that provided a supervised, socially distanced remote learning space for elementary students.

About the A.H. Nickless Innovation Award

The A.H. Nickless Innovation Award was created by the Nickless Family Charitable Foundation to honor the memory of the late Arthur H. Nickless, a local innovator and owner of Wolverine Telephone Company. With a goal of inspiring passion for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), the competition is open to high school students in Bay, Midland, Saginaw and Tuscola counties and awards up to \$77,500 per year in scholarships to students and STEM grants to schools. For more information, visit ahninnovationaward.com.